

wards in pursuit of the rebels, doubled back on the capital for which they made a rush, drove them by her approach into retreat to Dumfries, and ultimately, by her advance southwards with a fresh army in October, across the Border. Before quitting Dumfries they issued a declaration vindicating their action on religious and constitutional grounds. In spite of Acts of Parliament, which, by their own culpable connivance, had not been ratified, despite even royal proclamations, the Protestant religion, they rather tardily protested, in language that might have come from Knox, was endangered by the royal refusal to enforce the laws against papists. Moreover, she had proclaimed her husband king without asking the consent of the Estates, and had thus violated the ancient laws and liberties of the realm.

The cause for which these men protested seemed now in truth in a bad plight. Mary was mistress of the situation, had, it seemed, both Protestantism and the constitution at her mercy. In spite of Acts of Parliament, she had succeeded in imposing her policy and her will on the nation. The tactics that had told against Mary of Guise had failed to tell against her daughter. What had become of John Knox and his dogma of the right of resistance to the powers that be ? For the present, John Knox, summoned to account before the Privy Council for a philippic against idolatry, delivered in St Giles' in presence of Darnley himself, was under sentence to hold his peace. Knox at least had no cause to accuse himself of culpable connivance with Mary's mass, and he had ample reason for seeing in the discomfiture of the politicians the vindication of his own honesty and consistency.

Nevertheless, in little more than eighteen months a series of events, sudden, startling, tragic (too well known to need recapitulation), retrieved the discomfiture of the cause on behalf of which Moray and his associates had vainly protested at Dumfries. The estrangement between Mary and Darnley, and the resentment of the nobles at the ascendancy of the Italian secretary, led to the murder of Riccio. The murder of Riccio led to the ascendancy of Bothwell, and the ascendancy of Bothwell led in turn to the murder of Darnley. Darnley may have been as wretched a husband as he is by almost universal consent represented to have been. He exasperated the queen by his